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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/802,320	03/08/2001	James Engert	2825.2001-001	1435

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EXAMINER

MURPHY, JOSEPH F

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1646

DATE MAILED: 11/19/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/802,320

Applicant(s)

ENGERT ET AL.

Examiner

Joseph F Murphy

Art Unit

1646

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 September 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 9-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 9-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 16.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Applicant's election of Group XXVII, claims 9-15, drawn to SEQ ID NO: 5 in Paper No. 15, 9/3/2002 is acknowledged. Because applicant did not distinctly and specifically point out the supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election has been treated as an election without traverse (MPEP § 818.03(a)).

Formal Matters

Claims 1-8 were cancelled, claims 9, 10, 12 and 14 were amended and new claims 16-20 were added in Paper No. 15, 9/3/2002. Claims 9-20 are pending and under consideration.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112 second paragraph

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 9-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 9, 12, 14, 17, 19 recite the limitation "the polymorphic site". There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claims. It is not clear what polymorphic site the method is to analyze. Claims 10-11, 13, 15-15, 18, 20 are rejected insofar as they depend on the recitation of "the polymorphic site" in claims 9, 12, 14, 17, 19.

Claims 9, 12, 14, 17, 19 are vague and indefinite in the recitation of the term "the polymorphic site of SEQ ID NO: 5". It is not clear what nucleotide of SEQ ID NO: 5 is the polymorphic site.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 9-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Helbecque et al. (1997).

Helbecque et al. teach methods of assessing the association between VLDL-R gene polymorphism and plasma lipoprotein levels. Particular attention was paid to analyzing the particles that are enriched in apoE. These effects were further analyzed to account for the interactions with apoE phenotype, associated with functional differences in lipoprotein clearance (page 3). The relationship between the VLDL-R polymorphism and plasma lipid and lipoprotein levels suggests that VLDL-R may be a candidate gene for dyslipidemia and/or for cardiovascular disease risk. Table 4 compares the allelic distribution of VLDL-R (CGG) repeat in the control group between subjects that were treated with lipid lowering drugs and those without such treatment. The frequencies of VLDL-R 9 and VLDL-R 5 alleles were lower and higher, respectively, in treated patients than in nontreated subjects, but the difference in VLDL-R polymorphism distribution between treated and untreated controls was not statistically significant ($P=.054$). Table 5 shows the allele distribution in the ECTIM Study of cases with MI versus

Art Unit: 1646

controls. The method taught in Helbecq et al. anticipates the claimed method by examining a sample for a polymorphism which is associated with cardiovascular disease. The instant claims are drawn to determining the nucleotide occupying the polymorphic site of SEQ ID NO: 5, while the polymorphism of Helbecq et al. comprises a CGG motif. SEQ ID NO: 5 comprises a CGG, thus the method of Helbecq et al. anticipates the claimed method.

Conclusion

No claim is allowed.

Advisory Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joseph F. Murphy whose telephone number is 703-305-7245.

The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Yvonne Eyler can be reached on 703-308-6564. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-305-3014 for regular communications and 703-308-0294 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0196.



Joseph F. Murphy, Ph. D.
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 1646
November 13, 2002